UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/792,028	03/02/2004	Kenneth B. Kidder	H0005197	1376

7590 05/12/2009

Honeywell International, Inc.
Patent Services Group
101 Columbia Road
Morristown, NJ 07962

EXAMINER	
HO, HUY C	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2617	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
05/12/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/792,028	KIDDER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	HUY C. HO	2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *1-2, 4-5, 8-17, and 19-35* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4,5,8-17 and 19-35* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4,5,8-17 and 19-35* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *02 March 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 02/27/2009 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 17, 19, 23, 29, 30, 31, 33 and new claims 34, 35 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in

order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. **Claims 1-2, 4-5, 8-17, 19-24 and 26-35** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Wang (2004/0201448)** in view of **Andric et al. (2004/0018839)** and further in view of **Abrol et al. (US 2002/0068570).**

Consider claim 1, (Currently amended) Wang discloses a method for wireless association between a controller and a wireless node, the method comprising:

receiving association request data transmitted from the wireless node, the association request data including unique identification (ID) data for the wireless node (Wang, sections [33]-[34], disclosing components in a wireless communication system transmit requests for initialization communication with the control node, a unique ID code is accordingly assigned for the communication);

in response to receiving the association request data at the controller, assigning association ID data including a master ID exclusively identifying the controller relative to any other controller within communication range of the wireless node **(sections [34]-[35])** an ID corresponding to a network served by the controller and of which the wireless node is operating, and a slave ID exclusively assigned to the wireless node relative to any other wireless nodes in the network **(sections [34]-[36]),** wherein the association ID data is selected from a numerical range (Andric, pp [189]), the control node chooses addresses from a pool of addresses set aside in the network for all nodes) exclusively allocated to the controller;

sending the association ID data assigned to the wireless node by the controller using the unique ID with the association ID data to identify the wireless node as the intended recipient of the association ID data **(sections [34]-[36])**, the controller storing the association ID data for use in exchanging wireless signals with the wireless node **(sections [15]-[16]**); and

determining that association IDs of incoming wireless signals are within the numerical range (Andric, pp [189], the control node chooses addresses from a pool of addresses set aside in the network for all nodes), and in response thereto, using the stored association ID data to identify the incoming

wireless signals as coming from the wireless node (see Wang, **sections [34]-[36]),** unique ID being exchanged between lighting units and a control node for communication).

Wang does not show the unique ID code data includes a network identification data, However it is noticeable that Wang discloses a system of master-slave wireless linking being established between master nodes and component nodes in a local area network LAN and the master node identifies each component nodes within the LAN network for communication (see Wang, pp [23-[24]). Andric teaches a method and system in a self-organizing communication network where mobile nodes MN interchange communication with a control node, and the control node assigns a network address to mobile nodes accordingly (see Andric, the abstract, pp [189]-[190], local network identifiers assigned to mobile nodes). Since Wang and Andric teach wireless communication networks with nodes and control nodes with usage of special unique identification data assignment, therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify teachings of Wang and combine teachings of Andric of a control node assigns a network id address to mobile nodes in a wireless network to enhance the communication security for nodes in a self organizing network as taught by Andric (Andric, pp [4]).

Wang teaches the control node and the lighting units exchange unique ID code for communication (see Wang, pp [14]-[16]). Andric teaches a self organizing network having a number of nodes, one control node, nodes exchange address IDs for communication in the network, the control node chooses addresses from a pool of addresses set aside in the network for all nodes (see Andric, pp [189]), thus Wang, as modified by Andric, discloses the association ID data is selected from a numerical range in the network.

Wang, as modified by Andric, does not show the address data is selected is exclusive to the controller. Abrol teaches the control node PDSN communicates with other mobile station nodes in a network by exchanging IP address, which assigned from a pool of addresses exclusive to the control node PDSN (see Abrol, pp [9]). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify teachings of Wang, modified by Andric, by combining teachings of Abrol of the address data used for communication between nodes and control

node, that is assigned from a pool of addresses exclusive to the control node PDSN so as to have the reliable and correct information exchanging for communication in the network (see Abrol, pp [4]-[12]).

Consider claim 17, (Previously Presented) Wang discloses a method for wirelessly communicating between a controller and a wireless node, the method comprising:

receiving, at the controller association request data transmitted from the wireless node, the association request data including a unique device ID for the wireless node (Wang, sections [33]-[34], disclosing components in a wireless communication system transmit requests for initialization communication with the control node, a unique ID code is accordingly assigned for the communication);

assigning association ID data including a master ID exclusively identifying the controller relative to any other controller within communication range of the wireless node (**sections [34]-[35]**), an ID corresponding to a network served by the controller and of which the wireless node is operating, and a slave ID exclusively assigned to the wireless node relative to any other wireless nodes in the network (**sections [34]-[36]**), wherein the association ID data is selected from a numerical range exclusively allocated to the controller;

sending an association ID assigned to the wireless node by the controller using the unique device ID with the association ID to identify the wireless node as the intended recipient of the association ID (**[34]-[36]**), the controller storing the association ID for use in sending wireless messages to the wireless node (**sections [15]-[16]**);

receiving and storing the association ID data at the wireless node as a function of the unique ID (**section [36]**);

using at least the slave ID of the stored association ID data at the wireless node to identify incoming wireless messages from the controller as messages intended for the wireless node (**sections [33]-[35]**); and

in response to the association ID data being within the numerical range, using at least the master ID and the ID of the association ID data at the controller identified by the master to identify incoming wireless messages sent from the wireless node (**sections [33]-[35]**);

determining that association IDs of incoming wireless messages are within the numerical range (Andric, pp [189], the control node chooses addresses from a pool of addresses set aside in the network for all nodes), and in response thereto, use at least the master ID and the network ID of the association ID data at the controller identified by the master ID to identify the incoming wireless messages as being sent from the wireless node on a network identified by the network ID (see Wang, **sections [34]-[36]),** unique ID being exchanged between lighting units and a control node for communication).

Wang does not show the unique ID code data includes a network identification data, However it is noticeable that Wang discloses a system of master-slave wireless linking being established between master nodes and component nodes in a local area network LAN and the master node identifies each component nodes within the LAN network for communication (see Wang, pp [23-[24]). Andric teaches a method and system in a self-organizing communication network where mobile nodes MN interchange communication with a control node, and the control node assigns a network address to mobile nodes accordingly (**see the abstract, pp [189]-[190], local network identifiers assigned to mobile nodes).** Since Wang and Andric teach wireless communication networks with nodes and control nodes with usage of special unique identification data assignment, therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify teachings of Wang and combine teachings of Andric of a control node assigns a network id address to mobile nodes in a wireless network to enhance the communication security for nodes in a self organizing network as taught by Andric (see Andric, pp [4]).

Wang teaches the control node and the lighting units exchange unique ID code for communication (see Wang, pp [14]-[16]). Andric teaches a self organizing network having a number of nodes, one control node, nodes exchange address IDs for communication in the network, and Andric teaches the control node chooses addresses from a pool of addresses set aside in the network for all nodes (see Andric, pp [189]), thus Wang, as modified by Andric, discloses the association ID data is selected from a numerical range in the network.

Wang, as modified by Andric, does not show the address data is selected is exclusive to the controller. Abrol teaches the control node PDSN communicates with other mobile station nodes in a

network by exchanging IP address, which assigned from a pool of addresses exclusive to the control node PDSN (see Abrol, pp [9]). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify teachings of Wang, modified by Andric, by combining teachings of Abrol of the address data used for communication between nodes and control node, that is assigned from a pool of addresses exclusive to the control node PDSN so as to have the reliable and correct information exchanging for communication in the network (see Abrol, pp [4]-[12]).

Consider claim 23, (Currently Amended) Wang discloses a method for controlling a plurality of wireless thermostats in communication range with at least one gateway, each wireless thermostat coupled to control HVAC type equipment (**section [22]**), the method comprising:

receiving, at the gateway, association request data sent from one of the wireless thermostats configured to control the HVAC type equipment, the association request data including unique identification (ID) data for the wireless thermostat (**sections [33]-[34]**);

generating a gateway-owned association ID to include a master ID exclusively identifying the gateway relative to any other gateway within communication range of the wireless thermostat, corresponding to a network served by the gateway and of which the wireless thermostat is operating, and a slave ID exclusively assigned to the wireless thermostat relative to any other wireless thermostats in the network , and sending the gateway-owned association ID data assigned to the wireless thermostat by the gateway using the unique ID to identify the wireless thermostat as the intended recipient of the association ID, the gateway storing the association ID data for use in sending wireless messages to the wireless thermostat and to identify incoming wireless messages sent from the wireless thermostat (**sections [15]-[16]**, **[34]-[36]**), wherein the association ID is selected from a numerical range exclusively allocated to the gateway;

sending the gateway-owned association ID data to the wireless thermostat as a function of the unique ID to identify incoming wireless messages from the gateway as messages intended for the wireless thermostat (**section [36]**); and

communicating control messages from the gateway to the wireless thermostat using the association ID data to identify the wireless thermostat as the intended recipient of the control

messages (**sections [33]-[35]**), the control messages causing the wireless thermostat, to accept the control messages as function of the association ID data and, in response to the control messages, controlling HVAC equipment coupled to the wireless thermostat (**sections [33]-[35]**).

Wang does not show the unique ID code data includes a network identification data, However it is noticeable that Wang discloses a system of master-slave wireless linking being established between master nodes and component nodes in a local area network LAN and the master node identifies each component nodes within the LAN network for communication (see Wang, pp [23-[24]). Andric teaches a method and system in a self-organizing communication network where mobile nodes MN interchange communication with a control node, and the control node assigns a network address to mobile nodes accordingly (**see the abstract, pp [189]-[190], local network identifiers assigned to mobile nodes).** Since Wang and Andric teach wireless communication networks with nodes and control nodes with usage of special unique identification data assignment, therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify teachings of Wang and combine teachings of Andric of a control node assigns a network id address to mobile nodes in a wireless network to enhance the communication security for nodes in a self organizing network as taught by Andric (see Andric, pp [4]).

Wang teaches the control node and the lighting units exchange unique ID code for communication (see Wang, pp [14]-[16]). Andric teaches a self organizing network having a number of nodes, one control node, nodes exchange address IDs for communication in the network, and Andric teaches the control node chooses addresses from a pool of addresses set aside in the network for all nodes (see Andric, pp [189]), thus Wang, as modified by Andric, discloses the association ID data is selected from a numerical range in the network.

Wang, as modified by Andric, does not show the address data is selected is exclusive to the gateway. Abrol teaches the control node PDSN communicates with other mobile station nodes in a network by exchanging IP address, which assigned from a pool of addresses exclusive to the control node PDSN (see Abrol, pp [9]). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify teachings of Wang, modified by Andric, by

combining teachings of Abrol of the address data used for communication between nodes and control node, that is assigned from a pool of addresses exclusive to the control node PDSN so as to have the reliable and correct information exchanging for communication in the network (see Abrol, pp [4]-[12]).

Consider claim 29, (Currently Amended) Wang discloses a system for wireless association between a controller and a wireless node, the system comprising:

means for transmitting association request data from the wireless node, the association request data including unique identification (ID) data for the wireless node (Wang, sections [33]-[34], disclosing components in a wireless communication system transmit requests for initialization communication with the control node, a unique ID code is accordingly assigned for the communication);

means for receiving the association request data at the controller and, in response, assigning association ID data including a master ID exclusively identifying the controller relative to any other controller within communication range of the wireless node, a network ID corresponding to a network served by the controller and of which the wireless node is operating, and a slave ID exclusively assigned to the wireless node relative to any other wireless nodes in the network (**sections [15]-[16]**, **[34]-[36]**), wherein the association ID data is selected from a numerical range exclusively allocated to the controller;

means for sending the association ID data assigned to the wireless node by the controller using the unique ID with the association ID data to identify the wireless node as the intended recipient of the association ID data, the controller storing the association ID data for use in sending wireless signals to the wireless node (**sections [15]-[16]**);

means for receiving and storing the association ID data at the wireless node as a function of the unique ID (**section [36]**), thereby associating the wireless node with the controller identified by the master ID and operating in the network identified by the ID (**section [35]**); and

means for determining that association IDs of wireless signals received at the controller are within the numerical range (Andric, pp [189], the control node chooses addresses from a pool of addresses set aside in the network for all nodes, and in response thereto, using the stored association

ID data to identify the incoming wireless signals as coming from the wireless node (see Wang, **sections [34]-[36]),** unique ID being exchanged between lighting units and a control node for communication).

Wang does not show the unique ID code data includes a network identification data, However it is noticeable that Wang discloses a system of master-slave wireless linking being established between master nodes and component nodes in a local area network LAN and the master node identifies each component nodes within the LAN network for communication (see Wang, pp [23-[24]). Andric teaches a method and system in a self-organizing communication network where mobile nodes MN interchange communication with a control node, and the control node assigns a network address to mobile nodes accordingly (**see the abstract, pp [189]-[190], local network identifiers assigned to mobile nodes).** Since Wang and Andric teach wireless communication networks with nodes and control nodes with usage of special unique identification data assignment, therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify teachings of Wang and combine teachings of Andric of a control node assigns a network id address to mobile nodes in a wireless network to enhance the communication security for nodes in a self organizing network as taught by Andric (see Andric, pp [4]).

Wang teaches the control node and the lighting units exchange unique ID code for communication (see Wang, pp [14]-[16]). Andric teaches a self organizing network having a number of nodes, one control node, nodes exchange address IDs for communication in the network, and Andric teaches the control node chooses addresses from a pool of addresses set aside in the network for all nodes (see Andric, pp [189]), thus Wang, as modified by Andric, discloses the association ID data is selected from a numerical range in the network.

Wang, as modified by Andric, does not show the address data is selected is exclusive to the gateway. Abrol teaches the control node PDSN communicates with other mobile station nodes in a network by exchanging IP address, which assigned from a pool of addresses exclusive to the control node PDSN (see Abrol, pp [9]). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify teachings of Wang, modified by Andric, by combining teachings of Abrol of the address data used for communication between nodes and control

node, that is assigned from a pool of addresses exclusive to the control node PDSN so as to have the reliable and correct information exchanging for communication in the network (see Abrol, pp [4]-[12]).

Consider claim 30, (Currently Amended) Wang discloses a controller apparatus comprising:

a transceiver capable of being coupled to one or more wireless nodes that transmit association request data including unique identification (ID) data for the wireless node **(sections [7], [10]-[11], [33]-[34])**;

a processor that causes the apparatus to:

receive the association request data (**section [33]**);

in response, to receiving the association request data, assign association ID data including a master ID exclusively identifying the controller relative to any other controller within communication range of the wireless node, a network ID corresponding to a network served by the controller and of which the wireless node is operating, and a slave ID exclusively assigned to the wireless node relative to any other wireless nodes in the network (Wang, sections [33]-[34], disclosing components in a wireless communication system transmit requests for initialization communication with the control node, a unique ID code is accordingly assigned for the communication), wherein the association ID data is selected from a numerical range exclusively allocated to the controller;

send the association ID data assigned to the wireless node by the controller using the unique ID with the association ID data to identify the wireless node as the intended recipient of the association ID data, thereby causing the wireless node to receive and store the association ID data as a function of the unique ID, thereby associating the wireless node with the controller (**sections [34]-[36]);**

store the association ID data for use in sending wireless signals to the wireless node (**sections [34]-[36]**); and

determine that association IDs of incoming wireless signals are within the numerical range (Andric, pp [189], the control node chooses addresses from a pool of addresses set aside in the network for all nodes), and in response thereto, using the stored association ID data to identify the incoming wireless signals as coming from the wireless node (see Wang, **sections [34]-[36]),** unique ID being exchanged between lighting units and a control node for communication).

Wang does not show the unique ID code data includes a network identification data, However it is noticeable that Wang discloses a system of master-slave wireless linking being established between master nodes and component nodes in a local area network LAN and the master node identifies each component nodes within the LAN network for communication (see Wang, pp [23-[24]). Andric teaches a method and system in a self-organizing communication network where mobile nodes MN interchange communication with a control node, and the control node assigns a network address to mobile nodes accordingly (**see the abstract, pp [189]-[190], local network identifiers assigned to mobile nodes).** Since Wang and Andric teach wireless communication networks with nodes and control nodes with usage of special unique identification data assignment, therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify teachings of Wang and combine teachings of Andric of a control node assigns a network id address to mobile nodes in a wireless network to enhance the communication security for nodes in a self organizing network as taught by Andric (see Andric, pp [4]).

Wang teaches the control node and the lighting units exchange unique ID code for communication (see Wang, pp [14]-[16]). Andric teaches a self organizing network having a number of nodes, one control node, nodes exchange address IDs for communication in the network, and Andric teaches the control node chooses addresses from a pool of addresses set aside in the network for all nodes (see Andric, pp [189]), thus Wang, as modified by Andric, discloses the association ID data is selected from a numerical range in the network.

Wang, as modified by Andric, does not show the address data is selected is exclusive to the gateway. Abrol teaches the control node PDSN communicates with other mobile station nodes in a network by exchanging IP address, which assigned from a pool of addresses exclusive to the control node PDSN (see Abrol, pp [9]). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify teachings of Wang, modified by Andric, by combining teachings of Abrol of the address data used for communication between nodes and control node, that is assigned from a pool of addresses exclusive to the control node PDSN so as to have the reliable and correct information exchanging for communication in the network (see Abrol, pp [4]-[12]).

Consider claim 2, (Original) The method of **claim 1**, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches:

using the stored association ID data at the wireless node to identify incoming wireless signals from the controller as signals intended for the wireless node (Wang**, sections [14]-15]).**

Consider claim 4, (Previously Presented)The method of **claim 1**, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol teaches wherein assigning association ID data includes assigning network ID data corresponding to a network of wireless nodes served by the controller (**see** Andric**, sections [189]-[190]).**

Consider claim 5, (Original)The method of claim 4, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol teaches selecting the network ID data by parsing network ID data in use within range of the controller and selecting network ID data that is not in use within range (see Andric, sections [189]-[190]).

Consider claim 8, (Previously Presented) The method of **claim 7**, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches after assigning association ID data, further comprising replacing the controller with a new controller, storing the association ID data at the new controller and using the master ID data to identify the new controller (**see** Wang**, pars [31], [33], [35]-[36]).**

Consider claim 9, (Original)The method of **claim 1**, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches prior to transmitting association request data, further comprising inputting an association request at the wireless node and wherein transmitting association request data includes transmitting the association request data in response to the association request input (Wang**, par [22]).**

Consider claim 10, (Original) The method of **claim 9**, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches entering an association mode at the wireless node for a selected time period and exiting the association mode after the selected time period has expired, wherein receiving and storing the association ID data at the wireless node includes receiving and storing the association ID data if the wireless node is in the association mode (Wang**, pars [37]-[38]**).

Consider claim 11, (Original)The method of **claim 9**, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches inputting an association request input at the controller and wherein sending association ID data includes sending the association ID data in response to both the association request input at the controller and the received association request data (Wang**, par [44])**.

Consider claim 12, (Original) The method of **claim 11**, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches entering an association mode at the controller for a selected time period and exiting the association mode after the selected time period has expired, wherein receiving the association request data at the controller and, in response, sending association ID data includes sending association ID data if the controller is in the association mode **(**Wang**, par [44]**).

Consider claim 13, (Original)The method of **claim 1**, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches after receiving and storing the association ID data at the wireless node, replacing the wireless node with a new wireless node by storing the association ID data at the new wireless node (Wang**, [14]-[16]**).

Consider claim 14, (Original)The method of **claim 1** Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches sending messages to the wireless node using the association ID data to identify the wireless node as the intended recipient of the messages and using the messages at the wireless node to control equipment coupled thereto (Wang**, [14]-15])**.

Consider claim 15, (Original) The method of **claim 1**, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches prior to sending association ID data, further comprising:

sending a conflict checking message including a network ID to be used with the association ID **(**Wang**, [35], [38], [41]-[42])**;

in response to receiving a network ID conflict response of another controller to the conflict checking message, selecting a new network ID to be included with the association ID and re-sending a conflict checking message **(**Wang**, [35], [38], [41]-[42])**; and

in response to not receiving a network ID conflict response, sending the association ID data (Wang**, [35], [38], [41]-[42]**).

Consider claim 16, (Original) The method of **claim 1**, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches using the controller to monitor wireless conflict checking messages from other controllers within range of the controller; and in response to receiving a conflict checking message including a network ID that is in use by the controller, sending a conflict response (Wang**, [35], [38], [41]-[42]**).

Consider claim 19 (Currently Amended), The method of claim 17, Wang, as modified by Andric, teaches:

in response to the association ID data being outside of the numerical range, ignoring the association ID data at the controller (Andric, pp [112]**)**.

Consider claim 20, (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches wherein using the association ID data at the controller to identify incoming wireless messages sent from the wireless node includes determining, at the controller, that the network ID data corresponds to a network served by the controller (Wang**, pars [14]-[15], [22], [31]**).

Consider claim 21, (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches wherein the master ID data is exclusive to the controller relative to controllers within communication range of the wireless node and wherein using the association ID data at the controller to identify incoming wireless messages sent from the wireless node includes determining, at the controller, that the master ID data corresponds to the controller's master ID data (Wang**, pars [14]-15], [23]-[24], [31], [34]**).

Consider claim 22, (Original) The method of **claim 17**, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches wherein using the stored association ID data at the wireless node to identify incoming wireless messages includes identifying the incoming wireless messages from a plurality of incoming

wireless messages traversing shared media that is susceptible to the transmission of multiple wireless messages (Wang, **[14]-[15]).**

Consider claim 24, (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches using the association ID to label compliance data sent from the wireless thermostat to identify the source of the compliance data, the compliance data being indicative of user compliance with the utility control messages (Wang, **sections [34]-[36]).**

Consider claim 26, (Original) The method of **claim 23**, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches wherein communicating control messages from the gateway includes communicating control messages in response to control messages received at the gateway from a local utility company (Wang, **pars [6]-[7], [14]-[15], [21]).**

Consider claim 27, (Original) The method of claim 23, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol teaches wherein communicating control messages from the gateway includes broadcasting information from the gateway to a plurality of wireless thermostats using a network ID included with the association ID, each of the plurality of wireless thermostats being adapted to receive the broadcast information as a function of the network ID portion of the association ID (Andric, **section [88], [98]).**

Consider claim 28, (Original) The method of claim 27, Wang, as modified by Andric, teaches wherein each wireless thermostat is adapted to respond to the broadcast information as a function of user inputs received at the wireless thermostat and to report a condition of the response to the gateway using the association ID to identify the wireless thermostat from which the reported condition was sent (Andric, **section [88], [98]).**

Consider claim 31, (Currently Amended), The apparatus of **claim 30**, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches wherein the wireless node is configured and arranged to use the stored association ID data at the wireless node to identify incoming wireless signals from the controller as signals intended for the wireless node (**pars [14]-[15], [22], [31]).**

Consider claim 32, (Original)The system of **claim 30**, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches wherein the controller is configured and arranged to use the association ID to identify

incoming wireless signals sent from the wireless node as coming from the wireless node (Wang, **pars [14]-[15], [34]**).

Consider claim 33, (Currently Amended) The apparatus of **claim 30**, Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol further teaches wherein the processor further causes the apparatus to:

prior to sending association ID data, send a conflict checking message including a network ID to be used with the association ID (Wang, **[35], [38], [41]-[42]**);

in response to receiving a network ID conflict response of another controller to the conflict checking message, select a new network ID to be included with the association ID and re-send a conflict checking message (Wang, **[35], [38], [41]-[42]**); and

in response to not receiving a network ID conflict response, send the association ID data (Wang, **[35], [38], [41]-[42]**).

Consider claim 34, (New) The apparatus of Claim 30 Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol teaches wherein the processor further causes the apparatus to, in response to the association ID data being outside of the numerical range, ignore the association ID data (Andric, pp [112]**).**

Consider claim 35, (New) The method of Claim 1 Wang, as modified by Andric, Abrol teaches in response to the association ID data being outside of the numerical range, ignoring the association ID data at the controller (Andric, pp [112]**).**

6. **Claim 25** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Wang (US 2004/0201448)** in view of **Andric et al. (US 2004/0018839), Abrol et al. (US 2002/0068570)** and further in view of **Simmons et al. (US 6,349,883).**

Consider claim 25, (Original) The method of claim 24, sending the compliance data from the gateway to a local utility provider.

Wang, as modified by Andric and Abrol, does not show a local utility provider. Simmons discloses a local utility provider (**see Simmons, figure 2, col 6 lines 6-67, col 7 lines 1-25**).

Since Wang, Andric, Abrol and Simmons teach wireless communication system and HVAC system, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teachings of Wang, being modified by Andric, and have a local utility provider, taught by Simmons, to improve the HVAC system discussed by Simmons (**see Simmons, col 1 lines 15-67, col 2 lines 1-60).**

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUY C. HO whose telephone number is (571)270-1108. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached on 571-272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Huy C Ho/
Examiner, Art Unit 2617

/Patrick N. Edouard/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2626